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Docket 150.01180101

## DECLARATION

I, Brian A. Vaartstra, declare that: (1) my citizenship and mailing address are indicated below; (2) I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified below, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein, (3) I believe that I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter in

### METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING HALOGENS AND HALIDE SALTS


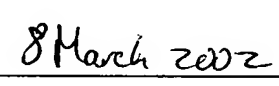
Filed: December 21, 2001

Serial No.: 10/032,049

described and claimed therein and for which a patent is sought; and (4) I hereby acknowledge my duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.\*

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his/her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Wherefore, I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention described and claimed in the specification identified above and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, Declaration and Power of Attorney, on the date indicated below.

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Name	Brian A. Vaartstra	Date
Citizenship:	Canada	
Residence:	3417 Braden Lane, Nampa, ID 83686	
Mailing Address: Same (If different than Residence)		

\*Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 is reproduced on the attached page.

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

(e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

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PATENT  
Docket No. 150.01180101IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Brian A. Vaartstra ) Group Art Unit: 2812  
Serial No.: 10/032,049 ) Examiner: Unknown  
Filed: December 21, 2001 )  
For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING  
HALOGENS AND HALIDE SALTS

ELECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§3.71 AND 3.73 AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, being Assignee of the entire interest in the above-identified application by virtue of an Assignment recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as set forth below or filed herewith, hereby elects, under 37 C.F.R. §3.71, to prosecute the application to the exclusion of the inventor(s).

The Assignee hereby revokes any previous Powers of Attorney and appoints: Ann M. Muetting (Reg. No. 33,977); Kevin W. Raasch (Reg. No. 35,651); Mark J. Gebhardt (Reg. No. 35,518); Victoria A. Sandberg (Reg. No. 41,287); David L. Provence (Reg. No. 43,022); Matthew W. Adams (Reg. No. 43,459); Loren D. Albin (Reg. No. 37,763); Joseph C. Huebsch (Reg. No. 42,673); Kathleen L. Franklin (Reg. No. 47,574); Michael L. Lynch (Reg. No. 30,871); Walter M. Fields (Reg. No. 37,130); Charles B. Brantley, II (Reg. No. 38,086); Kevin D. Martin (Reg. No. 37,882); and David J. Paul (Reg. No. 34,692)

as its attorney or agent (with full powers of appointment, substitution, and revocation) to prosecute the application, and any division, continuation, continuation-in-part, reexamination, or reissue thereof, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith, and to receive any Letters Patent.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §3.73, the undersigned certifies that the evidentiary documents have been reviewed, specifically the Assignment to Micron Technology, Inc. referenced below, and certifies that to the best of my knowledge and belief, title remains in the name of the Assignee.

Please direct all communications as follows:

Attention: Ann M. Muetting  
Muetting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.  
P.O. Box 581415  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-1415  
Telephone No. (612) 305-1217  
Customer Number 26813

ASSIGNEE: Micron Technology, Inc.

Date: March 20, 2002

By: 

Name: Roderic W. Lewis

Title: Vice President of Legal Affairs,  
General Counsel, & Corporate Secretary

ASSIGNMENT:

☒ Concurrently filed herewith for recording, a copy of which is attached hereto.  
☐ Previously recorded on: \_\_\_\_\_, at Reel: \_\_\_\_\_ Frame: \_\_\_\_\_

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Docket 150.0118 0101

## ASSIGNMENT

Whereas I, Brian A. VAARTSTRA, with residence and citizenship as indicated below; have made an invention in

### METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING HALOGENS AND HALIDE SALTS

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and executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America based thereon;

Now, therefore, for good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, I have agreed to assign and transfer and do hereby assign and transfer unto Micron Technology, Inc. ("Company"), a corporation of Boise, Idaho, having its principal office at 8000 South Federal Way, Boise, Idaho 83707, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in and to said invention and application, and in and to any division or continuation (in whole or in part) of said application, and in and to any and all improvements in said invention made by me or made jointly with others (provided any such improvement is made during, or within one year after the termination of, the employment by the Company of whichever of us, solely or jointly with one or more others, has made the same), and in and to any and all Letters Patent, reexaminations, reissues, or extensions thereof, of the United States of America and countries foreign thereto (including the right to apply for Letters Patent, Utility Models, or Inventors' Certificates in foreign countries in its own name and to claim any priority rights for such foreign applications to which such applications are entitled under international conventions, treaties, or otherwise), which have been or may be granted thereon or on any continued prosecution application, divisional, continuation (in whole or in part), renewal, reexamination, reissue, or other or further application based in whole or in part upon said invention or improvements thereon, to be held and enjoyed as fully and exclusively as they would have been by me had this assignment and transfer not been made;

I do further agree for myself and for my heirs, executors, and administrators, to execute and deliver without further consideration any further applications, assignments, and documents, and to perform such other acts as I lawfully may, that may be deemed necessary by the Company, its successors, assigns, and nominees, fully to secure its right, title, and interest as aforesaid and to obtain or maintain Letters Patent, Utility Models, or Inventors' Certificates in any and all countries;

And I do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents to issue any and all Letters Patent which may be granted upon any of said applications, to Micron Technology, Inc as the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest therein.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name on the day and year set forth below.

  
Name: Brian A. VAARTSTRA

Mailing Address/Residence: 3417 Braden Lane, Nampa, Idaho 83686Citizenship: Canada

8 March 2002  
Date

STATE OF IDAHO )  
 ) ss.

COUNTY OF ADA )

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2002 before me personally appeared Brian A. VAARTSTRA to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and he/she executed the same for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

  
Notary Public

